

Committee of the Whole

March 10, 2015

The Committee of the Whole met Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Quorum Court Room, County Administration Building, Third Floor, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

14 JPs Present: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison,
Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Anglin, Chiocco, Curry, Leadabrand,
Moore, Meyers
1 Absent: Moehring

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, District Court Judge Ray Bunch, Collector Gloria Peterson, Treasurer Deanna Ratcliffe, Circuit Clerk Brenda DeShields, County Attorney George Spence, Administrator of General Services John Sudduth, Comptroller Brenda Guenther

Media: Tom Sissom - Daily Record

PUBLIC COMMENTS

District Court Judge Ray Bunch expressed concerns and problems that the district courts are experiencing because of crowded conditions at the county jail. He stated that his court can no longer sentence misdemeanor offenders to jail time, so misdemeanors are turned away from the jail after being given a court date. He stated that sending someone to jail just does not mean anything today. He stated that he is asking the court for a solution because if we do not do something now, it is only going to get worse.

Presentation: Sheriff Cradduck – End of Year Update and Goals for 2015

Jail Captain Jeremy Gyll reported that the new addition is being used to house female inmates. He stated that the jail used to house around 60 female inmates, but now houses 120 and that they must be kept separate from the male inmates. He reported that there is an average of 180 to 220 state inmates that are housed at the jail per month, and that these are Benton County inmates that have been sentenced to go to prison. He said the other 300 are pre-trial inmates who have been arrested and charged with a felony charge, but cannot make bail, so they sit in the jail.

Captain Jeremy Gyll reported that before Sheriff Cradduck took office, there were approximately 3 or 4 narcotics officers, now there are between 9 and 11. He stated the narcotics officers are now making so many arrests, that they are driving the jail population up.

Captain Guyll also reported that they have approximately 90 to 100 sex offenders in the jail at this time, and by law they have to keep them separate from the other pods, so they take up a lot of space.

JP Curry asked what the turn over time is for a state inmate to be moved to a state prison. Captain Guyll responded that right now, it is roughly 6 months.

After further discussion on the crowded conditions at the county jail, JP Allen made motion to move the discussion to a Public Safety/Justice Facility meeting, seconded by JP Shadlow.

Motion passed by a unanimous show of hands vote.

Presentation: Benton County Extension Office Overview:

Johnny Gunsaulis, Staff Chair of the University Of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Of Benton County, presented a handout that explained the economic contribution of Arkansas Agriculture in 2014. He reported that Benton County is number one in the state and is a very strong agriculture proponent.

Committee Reports:

None

JP J. Harrison made motion to suspend the rules and read all ordinances and resolutions by title only, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

A. Resolution Request: To Confirm County Judge's Appointment of Chief Caudill to the Benton County 9-1-1 Administration Board, Law Enforcement Position; Sponsor: JP Allen

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed resolution request by title only.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

B. Resolution Request: Declaring a Vacancy in the Office of County Assessor for Benton County; Sponsor: JP Sandlin

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed resolution request by title only.

JP Sandlin made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

C. Resolution Request: Appointing a Successor to Fill the Vacancy in the Office of County Assessor for Benton County; Sponsor: JP Sandlin

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed resolution request by title only.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed resolution to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

JP Sandlin stated that she had been asked by the Quorum Court to review applications and to make a recommendation. She reported that she had received six resumes from candidates who are interested in the Assessor's position.

After some discussion by several JPs regarding hearing from each of the candidates who submitted applications and resumes for the Assessor position, JP Allen made motion to allow five minutes to each candidate present to address the Committee of the Whole. He added that after the court hears from the other candidates who applied, they will make their decision at the Quorum Court meeting scheduled for March 19th, seconded by JP K. Harrison.

JP Adams made motion to table the motion in order to allow all candidates to address the court at the same time, seconded by JP Meyers.

JP Allen stated that the committee should go ahead and listen to the candidates that are present at this meeting.

JP Moore called for the question to table.

11 in favor: Easley, Shadlow, J. Harrison, Allen, K. Harrison, Adams, Jones, Sandlin, Curry, Leadabrand, Moore

3 against: Adams, Chiocco, Meyers

1 absent: Moehring

Motion to table failed.

JP Moore called for a vote on the original motion.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands.

JP Sandlin stated that she has received resumes from Rod Grieve, Georgia Beaver, Dietrich Benge, Patrick Carr, Linda Hambrick, and Mary Lou Slinkard. She stated that after interviewing the candidate's applications, that she was going to recommend Rod

Grieve, but he withdrew his application. She stated that she and “Bear” Chaney both agreed that Linda Hambrick was the best choice to serve the rest of his term.

Linda Hambrick and Mary Lou Slinkard expressed their interest in the County Assessor’s position and stated their qualifications.

After some discussion, JP Allen made motion to forward the proposed resolution and leave the space blank for the person’s name who will be selected to the Quorum Court agenda to be considered on March 19, 2015, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by a unanimous show of hands vote.

D. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Dept. 0418, Jail Operations & Maintenance, Fund 3017; Sponsor: JP Barry Moehring

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Joel Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

E. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Dept. 0108, Non-Departmental & Maintenance, Fund 4000; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

Administrator of General Services John Sudduth reported on the expenses involved for the Microbial Remediation of the Sheriff’s Office. He reported that a total estimated cost of \$252,000 had originally been submitted for the microbial remediation.

Lengthy discussion was held on the costs of the mold remediation and work included for the microbial remediation, JP Jones made motion to approve the appropriation request in the amount to \$252,000 and forward to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Anglin.

After some further discussion on the costs of the microbial remediation, the motion passed by a show of hands vote as follows:

13-Yeas, 1 Nay (Allen), 1 absent (Moehring)

F. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Dept. 0801, County Agent/Extension Office, Fund 1000; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

G. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Dept. 0414, FY 2014 Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant, Fund 3740; Sponsor: JP Barry Moehring

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Allen made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

H. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Dept. 0200, Road, Fund 2000; Sponsor: JP Jones

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

I. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Transfer of Funds, Dept. 0418, Jail, Fund 3014, to Fund 3017; Sponsor: JP Jones

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP J. Harrison.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

J. Appropriation Ordinance Request: Transfer of Funds, Dept. 0000, County General, Fund 1000, to Capital Projects, Fund 4000; Sponsor: JP Joel Jones

JP Kurt Moore read the proposed appropriation ordinance by title only.

JP Jones stated that there is approximately \$3.6 million in unappropriated funds. He stated that \$1.3 million will be used by the road department for storm damages, and that this ordinance is to move \$2 million of the remainder into the Capital Projects Fund. He stated that it requires a two-thirds vote to take the money out of Capital Projects.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the proposed appropriation ordinance to the March 19, 2015 Quorum Court agenda, seconded by JP Sandlin.

Comptroller Brenda Guenther stated that we started the year with approximately \$575,000 in the Capital Projects Fund. She stated with the projected revenue of \$1.3 million and adding this additional \$2 million, minus the added expense of \$252,000 for the microbial remediation from tonight, we should end the year with \$2.6 million in the Capital Projects Fund.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JP K. Harrison announced that a Legislative Committee meeting will be held Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

JP Jones announced that a Public Safety/Justice Facility Committee meeting will be held Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.